

BABY SONG

Belonging Together/Programs

FOCUS	☐ Internal ☒ External
VOLUNTEER BASE	☒ General corps membership ☐ External volunteers ☐ Youth ☐ Music sections ☒ Women's ministries ☐ Seniors' ministries ☐ Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	☐ Seniors ☐ Youth ☐ People with disabilities ☐ Caregivers ☐ New Canadians ☐ Social mission ☒ Parents of babies and toddlers

Program description:

Baby Song is a music ministry resource that helps build connections between parents and their child/children (babies and toddlers), the church and families in their communities.

What are the intended program outcomes?

Goals include:

- Making contact with people in our communities.
- Breaking barriers and help people feel welcome coming into our church buildings.
- Building relationships within our communities.
- Creating an atmosphere that leads to conversations about life and God.
- Giving opportunity for fellowship: adult-to-adult, adult-to-child and child-to-child.
- Stimulating a child's linguistic, musical and motor skills development.
- Stimulating positive contact between parent and child.
- Helping parents gain parenting tips and information.
- Giving families a treasury of songs.

How will these outcomes be evaluated?

- Parents returning each week.
- Parents engaging with other parents at the weekly meetings.
- Families coming to other events/ministries offered through the corps/ministry unit.
- Parents enrolling older children in other programs offered by the corps/ministry units.
- Parents joining the next offering of the *Baby Song* program.



What procedures are required to set up this program?

- Download the *Baby Song* guide from Canada Bermuda Youth website, available in French and English.
- Recruitment of *Baby Song* co-ordinator and other volunteers to assist with running the program.
- All volunteers complete The Salvation Army ministry worker screening process.
- Determine dates and location of the program.
- Determine if you will charge families a fee to participate in the program (this will help offset any expenses).
- Purchase, gather supplies needed (foam mats, basic musical instruments—see guide).
- Advertise and promote program at corps, local family services, public libraries and on social media.
- Welcome parents and run the program over a nine-week period.

What procedure is required to operate this program?

- Team meets to plan each week's song choices, activities to do with parents and children and arrange guest speakers on topics of interests to parents of babies and toddlers.
- Ensure room is set up prior to the arrival of families.
- Create a coffee snack area. Have volunteers help with childcare while parents visit with each other over coffee.
- Run the music time with families (follow suggestions outlined in Baby Song Guide).
- Optional: Craft time with parents and children working together.
- Optional: Book corner (toddler books and parenting books).

Are there financial costs attached to providing this program?

You may wish to determine if you will charge a fee to participating families to help offset costs, which could include:

- Downloading and printing, if needed, The *Baby Song* guidebook.
- Simple musical instruments for use by babies and toddlers (i.e., drums, bells, shakers).
- Printing of flyers for posting around corps building, local families services, public libraries, etc.
- Foam mats to cover floor area.
- Coffee/tea/snacks.
- Craft supplies, if this is part of your program.
- Honorariums as needed for guest speakers.
- Optional: Purchasing of books that can be used by toddlers and helpful parenting books that parents could sign out and borrow. You may be able to collect like-new used books from your congregation.

What physical resources will I require?

- Foam mats to cover floor area.
- Simple musical instruments.

- Supplies for coffee/tea break.
- Name tags for parents, children and volunteers.

Would any additional training be necessary for volunteers with this program?

Volunteers engaging with youth or vulnerable individuals should be screened and trained according to Salvation Army policy.

More information:

The *Baby Song* resource from the territorial youth department offers a nurturing and developmentally appropriate framework for ministry with infants and their caregivers. Designed as part of the "Ready to Crawl" stage in the At-the-Ready Framework, this resource provides a structured yet flexible approach to creating a welcoming space where babies and their adults can experience love, community and the presence of God from the earliest stages of life.

Through music, movement, sensory play and connection time, *Baby Song* supports healthy attachment and early faith formation, while also offering caregivers a place of belonging and encouragement. The resource includes session outlines, spiritual reflections and tips for creating an inclusive, safe and engaging environment.

By implementing *Baby Song*, corps and community leaders can foster meaningful relationships with young families, support early childhood development and plant seeds of faith that grow within the context of loving community. It's an accessible and impactful way to extend Christ's welcome to even the youngest members of our church and community.

Learn more at: <https://salvationist.ca/canada-bermuda-youth/attheready-framework/ready-to-crawl/baby-song/>